

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A device for receiving and playing a multimedia file from a multimedia server over a wireless telecommunications network, comprising:
- a microprocessor for controlling the operation of the device;
 - a transceiver operatively connected to the microprocessor for receiving successive blocks of data from the streamed multimedia file over the wireless telecommunications network;
 - a buffer operatively connected to the microprocessor for temporarily storing the received blocks of data from the streamed multimedia file; and
 - an output operatively connected to the microprocessor for playing the successive blocks of data from the streamed multimedia file.
2. The device according to claim 1, wherein the blocks of the multimedia file are received in a digitized and compressed format.
3. The device according to claim 2, wherein the microprocessor is programmed to decode and decompress the blocks of data prior to playing through the output.
4. The device according to claim 3, further comprising a non-volatile memory operatively connected to the microprocessor for storing the decoding and decompression program.
5. The device according to claim 1, further comprising a memory operatively connected to the microprocessor for storing the received blocks of data

1 from the multimedia file for subsequent playback through the output.

2 6. The device according to claim 5, further comprising a visual
3 display operatively connected to the microprocessor for displaying a list of multimedia
4 files stored in the memory.

5 7. The device according to claim 5, further comprising a user
6 control panel operatively connected to a microprocessor to signal the microprocessor
7 to play the blocks of data from the multimedia file that are stored in the memory.

8 8. The device according to claim 1, wherein the multimedia file is
9 a digital audio file.

10 9. The device according to claim 1, wherein the multimedia file is
11 a digital video file.

12 10. The device according to claim 1, wherein the output is an audio
13 speaker.

14 11. The device according to claim 1, wherein the output is a
15 receptacle for operatively connecting the device to an audio speaker.

16 12. The device according to claim 1, wherein the output is a visual
17 display.

18 13. The device according to claim 1, wherein the blocks of data are
19 received from the wireless telecommunications network at a first transmission rate
20 until a minimum threshold level of data is stored in the buffer and at a second
21 transmission rate after the minimum threshold level of data is stored in the buffer,
22 wherein the first transmission rate is higher than the second transmission rate when the

1 minimum threshold level of data is stored in the buffer.

2 14. The device according to claim 1, wherein the microprocessor
3 monitors the size of the buffer to ensure that the data contained in the buffer does not
4 fall below the minimum threshold level prior to receiving all of the blocks of data
5 associated with the multimedia file.

6 15. The device according to claim 14, wherein the microprocessor
7 signals the wireless telecommunications network to adjust the data transmission rate
8 that data to the device based upon the size of the buffer.

9 16. The device according to claim 14, wherein the microprocessor
10 signals the wireless telecommunications network to increase the data transmission rate
11 to the device when the size of the buffer falls beneath the minimum threshold level.

12 17. The device according to claim 1, wherein the device is portable
13 and comprises a battery for powering the device.

14 18. The device according to claim 1, wherein the device is adapted
15 to transmit payment information over the wireless network to the multimedia server
16 before the multimedia file is streamed to the device.

17 19. The device according to claim 1, wherein a user of the device is
18 billed each time a multimedia file is streamed to the device.

19 20. A system for streaming a multimedia file over a wireless
20 telecommunications network to a wireless device, comprising:

21 a multimedia server operatively connected to the wireless
22 telecommunications network, the multimedia server including a database for storing

1 the multimedia file and adapted to stream successive blocks of data from the
2 multimedia file over the wireless telecommunications network in a digitized and
3 compressed format; and

4 a wireless device operatively connected to the wireless
5 telecommunications network for receiving and playing the streamed multimedia file,
6 the wireless device comprising:

7 a microprocessor for controlling the operation of the wireless device;
8 a transceiver operatively connected to the microprocessor for receiving
9 the successive blocks of data streamed over the wireless telecommunications network;
10 a buffer operatively connected to the microprocessor for temporarily
11 storing the received blocks of data from the streamed multimedia file; and
12 an output operatively connected to the microprocessor for playing the
13 successive blocks of data from the streamed multimedia file, wherein the
14 microprocessor is programmed to decode and decompress the blocks of data prior to
15 playing through the output.

16 21. The system according to claim 20, wherein the wireless device
17 further comprises a non-volatile memory operatively connected to the microprocessor
18 for storing the decoding and decompression program.

19 22. The system according to claim 20, wherein the wireless device
20 further comprises a memory operatively connected to the microprocessor for storing
21 the received blocks of data from the multimedia file for subsequent playback through
22 the output.

1 23. The system according to claim 22, wherein the wireless device
2 further comprises a visual display operatively connected to the microprocessor for
3 displaying a list of multimedia files stored in the memory.

4 24. The system according to claim 22, wherein the wireless device
5 further comprises a user control panel operatively connected to the microprocessor to
6 signal the microprocessor to play the blocks of data from the multimedia file that are
7 stored in the memory.

8 25. The system according to claim 20, wherein the multimedia file
9 is a digital audio file.

10 26. The system according to claim 20, wherein the multimedia file
11 is a digital video file.

12 27. The system according to claim 20, wherein the output is an
13 audio speaker.

14 28. The system according to claim 20, wherein the output is a
15 receptacle for operatively connecting the device to an audio speaker.

16 29. The system according to claim 20, wherein the output is a visual
17 display.

18 30. The system according to claim 20, wherein the blocks of data
19 are received from the wireless telecommunications network at a first transmission rate
20 until a minimum threshold level of data is stored in the buffer and at a second
21 transmission rate after the minimum threshold level of data is stored in the buffer, the
22 first transmission rate being higher than the second transmission rate when at least the

1 minimum threshold level of data is stored in the buffer.

2 31. The system according to claim 20, wherein the microprocessor
3 monitors the size of the buffer to ensure that data contained in the buffer does not fall
4 below a minimum threshold level prior to receiving all of the blocks of data associated
5 with the multimedia file.

6 32. The system according to claim 31, wherein the microprocessor
7 signals the wireless telecommunications network to adjust the rate that data is
8 transmitted to the wireless device based upon the size of the buffer.

9 33. The system according to claim 31, wherein the microprocessor
10 signals the wireless telecommunications network to increase the rate that data is
11 transmitted to the wireless device when the size of the buffer falls beneath the
12 minimum threshold level.

13 34. The system according to claim 20, wherein the wireless device
14 is portable and comprises a battery for powering the device.

15 35. The system according to claim 20, wherein the multimedia
16 server is operatively connected to the wireless telecommunications network via the
17 public switched telephone network.

18 36. The system according to claim 20, wherein the multimedia
19 server is operatively connected to the wireless telecommunications network via the
20 Internet.

21 37. The system according to claim 20, wherein payment
22 information is communicated to the multimedia server prior to streaming the

1 multimedia file to the wireless device.

2 38. The system according to claim 20, wherein a user of the device
3 is billed each time a multimedia file is streamed to the device.

4 39. The system according to claim 22, wherein an authentication
5 code must be received by the wireless device prior to playback of the received blocks
6 of data from the multimedia file stored in the memory.

7 40. The system according to claim 39, wherein the authentication
8 code is transmitted by the multimedia server over the wireless network to the wireless
9 device.

10 *Sub*
11 *93* 41. A method for streaming a multimedia file over a wireless
12 telecommunications network to a wireless device, comprising:

13 storing one or more multimedia files in a multimedia server operatively
14 connected to the wireless telecommunications network;

15 selecting a desired multimedia file;

16 streaming successive blocks of data from the desired multimedia file
17 over the wireless telecommunications network in a digitized and compressed format;

18 receiving the successive blocks of data streamed over the wireless
19 telecommunications network at a wireless device;

20 temporarily storing the received blocks of data from the streamed
21 multimedia file in a buffer in the wireless device;

22 decoding and decompressing the blocks of data temporarily stored in
the buffer;

1 successively playing the decoded and decompressed blocks of data
2 from the streamed multimedia file through an output in the wireless device.

3 42. The method according to claim 41, wherein the blocks of data
4 are received from the wireless telecommunications network at a first transmission rate
5 until a minimum threshold level of data is stored in the buffer and at a second
6 transmission rate after the minimum threshold level of data is stored in the buffer, the
7 first transmission rate being higher than the second transmission rate when at least the
8 minimum threshold level of data is stored in the buffer.

9 43. The method according to claim 42, further comprising the step
10 of monitoring the size of the buffer to ensure that the data contained in the buffer does
11 not fall below the minimum threshold level prior to receiving all of the blocks of data
12 associated with the streamed multimedia file.

13 44. The method according to claim 43, further comprising the step
14 of adjusting the rate that data is transmitted to the wireless device over the wireless
15 telecommunications network based upon the size of the buffer.

16 45. The method according to claim 43, further comprising the step
17 of increasing the rate that data is transmitted to the device over the wireless
18 telecommunications network when the size of the buffer falls beneath the minimum
19 threshold level.

20 46. The method according to claim 41, further comprising the step
21 of storing the received blocks of data in a memory of the wireless device for
22 subsequent playback through the output.

1 47. The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step
2 of displaying a list of multimedia files stored in the memory of the wireless device and
3 selecting a multimedia file stored in the memory for playback through the output of the
4 wireless device.

5 48. The method according to claim 41, wherein the multimedia file
6 is a digital audio file.

7 49. The method according to claim 41, wherein the multimedia file
8 is a digital video file.

9 50. The method according to claim 41, wherein the output is an
10 audio speaker.

11 51. The method according to claim 41, wherein the output is a
12 receptacle for operatively connecting the device to an audio speaker.

13 52. The method according to claim 41, wherein the output is a
14 visual display.

15 53. The method according to claim 41, wherein the multimedia
16 server is operatively connected to the wireless telecommunications network via the
17 public switched telephone network.

18 54. The method according to claim 41, wherein the multimedia
19 server is operatively connected to the wireless telecommunications network via the
20 Internet.

21 55. The method according to claim 41, further comprising the step
22 of providing the multimedia server with payment information before the desired

1 multimedia file is streamed to the wireless device.

2 56. The method according to claim 41, further comprising the step
3 of communicating payment information to the multimedia server prior to streaming the
4 multimedia file to the wireless device.

5 57. The method according to claim 41, further comprising the step
6 of billing a user of the device each time a multimedia file is streamed to the device.

7 58. The method according to claim 57, further comprising the steps
8 of:

9 identifying an account associated with the user of the device; and
10 debiting the account a predetermined amount for use of the multimedia
11 file.

12 59. The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step
13 of providing the wireless device with an authentication code prior to playback of the
14 received blocks of data from the multimedia file stored in the memory.

15 60. The method according to claim 59, wherein the authentication
16 code is transmitted to the wireless device upon receipt of payment information from a
17 user of the device.

18 61. The method according to claim 59, wherein the authentication
19 code is transmitted by the multimedia server over the wireless network to the wireless
20 device.

21 62. The method according to claim 61, wherein, prior to
22 transmitting the authentication code to the wireless device, an account associated with

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1 a user of the device is identified and debited a predetermined amount for use of the
2 multimedia file.

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